

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9921

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1232

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VS, VN, CB, UNHCR, UNICEF

SUBJECT: UN RELIEF PROGRAMS OF VIETNAM

REF: STATE 086074

1. DURING CALL ON UNSYG WALDHEIM APRIL 16, AMBASSADOR BENNETT CONVEYED SUBSTANCE AND ASKED QUESTIONS ON INDOCHINA RELIEF SET FORTH IN REFTEL.

2. AFTER LISTENING WITH EVIDENT INTEREST TO AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S DISCUSSION OF U.S. INDOCHINA RELIEF POLICY, THE SYG EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS ABOUT CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF U.N. RELIEF TO COMMUNIST PORTIONS OF INDOCHINA:

A) SYG HAS APPOINTED SIR ROBERT JACKSON TO SUPERVISE AND COORDINATE UN RELIEF TO INDOCHINA. UN PEOPLE ARE CHECKING ON THE SPOT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSSE HAS PEOPLE IN COMMUNIST-HELD AREAS; SO DOES UNHCR. ADDITIONALLY, SYG HAS DISPATCHED FAO OFFICIAL OBRAK TO HANOI REGARDING DELIEVERY OF RELIEF. (OBRAK, WHO IS FRENCH, IS DIRECTOR FAO OFFICE OF GENERAL AFFAIRS & INFORMATION.) OBRAK HAS HAD SIMILAR MISSIONS BEFORE. SYG BELEIVES IT EFFECTIVE TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES WHOM THE COMMUNISTS ALREADY KNOW. FURTHERMORE, THE PRG HAS "PLEDGED FULL COOPERATION" WITH UN RELIEF EFFORTS. THUS SYG SAID THERE ARE "CERTAIN ASSURANCES."

B) SYG CONCLUDED, WHILE IT IMPOSSIBLE GIVE "100
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PERCENT ASSURANCES" REGARDING RELIEF DELIVERIES IN

AREAS HELD BY COMMUNISTS, UN WILL DO ALL POSSIBLE TO MAKE SURE RELIEF MATERIALS ARE PROPERLY USED. HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT CONTROL AND SUPERVISION WILL BE ADEQUATE.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT USUN WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SIR ROBERT JACKSON (SEE SEPTTEL).
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